



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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DHS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM

SYSTEM TO SUPPORT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Tennessee Department of Human Services has signed a \$37 million contract with Atlanta-based Albion, Inc. to create a replacement computer system for its public assistance programs. The Albion staff will be housed in downtown Nashville at the Human Services state office headquarters, where the system will be developed and built.

The system, called the Vision Integration Platform—or VIP—will help manage cases in the Food Stamp, Families First (Tennessee’s Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or TANF program) and the TennCare/Medicaid programs. VIP will also interface with the state’s child support, foster care and TennCare databases.

Albion, a government software systems development company, was one of five companies that bid on the project in October. Following the competitive evaluation, and in accordance with the state’s competitive bid process, Albion was selected as the apparent winner in December and the four-year contract was signed in late January.

Albion has experience developing and implementing public assistance systems for several states, including Minnesota, Wyoming and Massachusetts.

VIP is replacing the Department’s “ACCENT” system, which was created in 1992. Since that time, federal public assistance programs administered by DHS have changed greatly, including the federal welfare program now known as TANF. The complex programs administered by DHS, as well as the large number of clients served by the department—more than one million each month—underscore the need for this web-based system.

The new system will allow potential clients to screen for eligibility on the Internet. It will also offer a voice-activated menu for existing clients to check the status of their case. The project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2008 and will be funded with a combination of federal and state dollars.

For more information on the Department of Human Services and its programs, visit:

www.state.tn.us/humanserv

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